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OUR HOME, OUR COUNTRY, OUR BROTHER MAN

Butter Making.—Is Churning the Milk or Churning the Cream preferable?

This is a question often asked us. Having no experience in churning milk we must rely upon such authorities as we have found on this subject for an answer to those who have made of us the enquiry.

This subject is briefly discussed in a report made by the committee of the New York State Ag. Society appointed last year to award premiums on butter. B. P. Johnson, Esq., of Albany, Corresponding Secretary of the Society, was Chairman, to whom we are indebted for the report which he politely sent us. In the course of his remarks, he observes that "The churning of milk is strongly insisted upon as highly important and necessary for butter designed for warm climates, and preservation for any considerable period of time."

Mr. Hawley of Binghamton, who has been for many years engaged in the purchase and shipping of butter for foreign markets, says, in speaking of the Orange County butter, which owes its celebrity mainly to the manufacture: "The perfect neatness and cleanliness of every thing about the dairy; the churning of milk instead of cream, and the attention to the quality and quantity of the salt are the principal peculiarities. The churning of the milk, I deem essential to butter intended for long voyages. It gives a peculiar firmness and fineness of texture and waxlike appearance, when fractured, which butter made by churning the cream seldom or never has. These peculiarities can generally be detected by the eye. There is a cream-like flavor to milk churned butter, which I have never found in butter manufactured in a different manner."

Among the competitors for the premiums offered by the aforementioned Society, was Mr. Holbert of Chemung. He keeps a dairy of forty cows, and was the only one out of seven competitors who made his butter by churning the milk, and the excellent quality of his butter drew the first premium. For the last ten years it is stated that he has never received less than 18 cents per pound for his butter, and sometimes he has received 28 cents per pound for his whole dairy produce.

We copy a part of Mr. Holbert's statement respecting his mode of management by which some of our readers will gain an insight into the cause of his success.

He has a farm of 200 acres, soil a gravelly loam with a slight mixture of black sand, the subsoil the same. His cows (40 in number) are of the common breed mostly, a slight mixture of the Durlam—from three to twelve years old. His feed is hay, grass and corn stalks; no slops or roots to his cows, pastures are of clover and timothy, and his meadows the same; he changes his pastures often, and thinks it advisable to change twice a week.

He observes that too much care cannot be taken to have your cows well watered and called. "I keep a large watering trough in my cow yard, where I frequently observe cows drinking large quantities of water immediately after coming from the brook. I keep salt lying in the yard year round. I take care to have my cellar thoroughly cleaned, and whitewashed every spring.

"I keep my milk in one cellar and the butter in the other. Too much care cannot be taken by dairymen to observe the time of churning. I usually churn from one hour to one hour and a half, (our readers must remember that he is churning milk.) I put from one to two pails of cold water in each churn before commencing to churn, and one pail more in each when nearly done in order to thin the milk and make it produce all the butter that it contains. When done take the butter out, wash it through one water, then set it in the cellar and salt it from three to five times before packing. Butter should not be made quite salt enough until the last working. Then add a little salt, which makes a brine that keeps the butter sweet. One ounce of salt to a pound of butter is about the quantity I use. I pack the first day, if the weather is cool; if warm, the second day. If the milk is too warm when churned, the quality of butter will be less, and the quality and flavor not so good as when it is cool as a proper temperature. I have always worked my butter by hand. Last fall I bought a butter worker, but I disapprove of its use entirely, and recommend the hand ladle in its stead.

"In packing, I fill my firkins to within two inches of the top, then lay a clean cloth on the top of the butter, and put salt on the cloth and keep it covered with salt and brine all the season. Great care should be taken not to let the milk stand too long before churning, as in that case hot weather it becomes too sour, and the butter will be also sour; and in cool weather it becomes bitter. All of which can be prevented in cool weather by putting one quart of butter milk in each pan or tub before straining the milk, and in hot weather by churning as soon as the milk becomes thick and moist on the top of the cream. I use the Tuck's island salt of the Ashton works."

Mr. H. also details several experiments that he tried during the last season. Some of them are as follows:

June 15th, drew the milk from 37 cows; morning mess 625 lbs., evening mess 632 lbs. of milk, in all 1157 lbs., making 3 lbs. 11 1/2 oz. of butter to 100 pounds of milk.

On the 9th of May he commenced drawing the milk from 5 cows for 30 days in succession, and made from them during the time 248 lbs. of butter.

On the 11th of June, drew from 6 cows 157 lbs. of milk, which made, when churned, 84 lbs. of butter. He churns all the milk, and churns

by horse power—uses four one barrel and a half barrel churn at once.

On the 8th of August, drew the milk from 40 cows; in morning got 508 lbs., in the evening 519 lbs.; in all 1027 lbs. of milk, which, when churned, made 39 lbs. of butter. The morning's mess made 3 lbs. and 14 oz. of butter, and the evening's mess 3 lbs. and 10 oz. of butter for each 100 lbs. of milk.

Mr. Holbert's dairy must be a profitable concern. He averaged the price of 23 cts. per lb. for the whole, and the sales for the season amounted, in cash, to \$14,092, and all this over and above family use—his family averaged during the season eight persons.

We have extracted pretty largely from this report. We know of some in Maine who will read it with interest, and profit by any thing that is really useful and new to them. We know of more who will read it without any interest, and profit none at all by it—preferring to make their butter in the common sloped way, and then sold because they can't get but ten cents per lb. for what they make. We know of others who won't read it at all, because a dairy away off in "York State" is nothing to them; and experimenting and book farming is all humbug.

New Mode of Preserving Butter. There cannot be a doubt that the cause why butter is difficult to preserve good, is that some material or ingredient of the milk combines so intimately with the butter particles that it is very difficult to separate. It has been said that Mr. E. H. Merryman, of Springfield, Illinois, has discovered that this substance is casein, or the cheesy matter, and that he has contrived a mode of separating it by mechanical means, and thus preserves butter a long time if it is exposed to the atmosphere. The Scientific American, remarking upon this subject, says that this separation of casein is done by the Tartars of the Crimea by melting the butter over a slow fire and removing the scum as it rises. The butter is kept in a melted state by means of a water bath at 180 degrees, until the caseous matter subsides to the bottom. This is a slow and tedious method, and if Mr. Merryman's method is successful, it must be a very great improvement.

Soiling. In this country, has been adopted only to a limited extent. The "Zoarites," however, a religious sect of Germans, located on the banks of the Muskingum river, in the State of Ohio, keep their cows almost constantly in their stalls—feeding them on the off of the dairy, roots, apples and hay. They are said to observe great care and circumspection in the treatment of their animals, and by them are abundantly remunerated for their extra care and pains. Their stalls are thoroughly washed daily, and the water used for this purpose, is carefully collected in reservoirs constructed expressly for the purpose, and applied systematically, in the form of liquid manure, to their hot-house and garden produce.

In a late communication to the British Board of Agriculture, it is stated that thirty cows, one bull, four calves, and five horses, were fed through the summer from fifteen acres of clover, sown the preceding year. The labor of two men and two horses was sufficient to tend them, and the net produce of the season, in butter, from June to October, was £19 10s., nearly \$90 from each cow. In this country, where, from the greater value of labor, the expense of tending would be considerably increased, the profits of soiling would obviously be less; but there are nevertheless situations and circumstances of frequent occurrence, which would render the adoption of this system, on a limited scale, an enterprise that would be attended with the most gratifying results. Soiling cows—the common Indian, or the southern horse tooth variety, broadcast, and feeding the crop, green to stock—especially to milk cows, during a part of the season, is a practice now becoming quite common. Animals in milk, so fed, will, if properly attended in other respects, greatly increase the quantity of their milk, while at the same time there is also effected, as a natural consequence, a corresponding improvement in its quality. This subject is, I think, eminently deserving the attention of farmers, generally.

AGRICULTURE. [Germantown Telegraph.

Bone Meal for Cows.

It may have been frequently noticed that cows, while giving milk, evince a disposition to eat bones. The appetite is sometimes very strong for them; indeed so voracious are some cows that they will leave all other food for the sake of obtaining bones, which they will chew by the hour together. This apparently morbid propensity is accounted for by the following theory: Chemical analysis proves that milk contains bone; and it is hence inferred that the food of the cow should contain the elements of bone, in order to produce milk of proper quality, or that which is capable of affording due support to all parts of the system. If the food is destitute of any of the essential principles of milk, the effort of nature to perfect this fluid, may occasion a drawback on some of the bodily tissues, and the substance of the bones and muscles may be carried off in the milk. The bones from this cause become weakened, and are unable to support the body. This effect is sometimes called the "bone disease." Prof. Johnson, several years since, suggested that bone meal fed to cows, would be found useful in such cases. A late number of the Massachusetts Ploughman states that a number of farmers have tried this, and report that they have found it an effectual remedy.

Land which has been long pastured by milk cows, has been found to become so much exhausted of phosphate of lime—the earthy matter of bones—that the milk was deficient in this principle, and the cows became weak in their frames, and unhealthy. On manuring the land with bones and with phosphate of lime, the composition of the herbage again became perfect, and the cows were strong, and gave good and nourishing milk. [Albany Cultivator.

A LARGE PORKER. Mr. T. H. Botsford, of Middlebury, Ohio, butchered, last season, a hog, seventeen months old, that weighed, when alive 335 lbs., and 780 lbs. after it was dressed, being a loss of less than 54 per cent.

Fertilizing Manures.

Professor J. J. Mages, in a letter to the New-York Tribune, makes mention of a great meadow in New Jersey, and its value as a fertilizer. He thus treats of the matter, which cannot but be instructive to all friends of agriculture:

"This meadow muck may be considered as organic matter not in a state of decay, and if placed in soil without first inducing a chemical change, it will not act as a fertilizer. As compared with well decomposed stable manure, it bears the same analogy that sour-knot does to cabbage. If sour-knot be buried under the surface of the earth, it will remain for many years unaltered, while cabbage under similar treatment would be readily decomposed. If the excess of acid be first removed from krait, it will then decompose as readily as cabbage, and from the same causes. The muck is composed of the lighter particles of surface-soils carried to its present locality by the rain; after being saturated frequently with salt water, its decomposition is arrested, and under this organism a style of gases peculiar to marshes takes possession of its surface. These gases are continually adding the carbon which they receive from the atmosphere in the form of carbonic acid gas to the muck as the principal result of their decay, and thus the muck is found to contain large amounts of carbonaceous matters. When muck is exposed to winter frosts, the ultimate fibres of the decomposed roots it contains, are torn sunder, and the mass is thus rendered pulverulent. In this state it is fit for easy decomposition. The quality of the grasses is much better on meadows which have been ditched for the purpose of supplying muck, and thus part of the cost of procurement is paid by the improved mowings.

"Muck may be decomposed in various ways, and will always produce beneficial results when used after decomposition as a manure. When mixed intimately with wood shavings, either the leached or unleached, it forms one of the best manures for fruit trees; and while the quantity of common salt it contains is insufficient to injure the peach, it is sufficient to prove highly serviceable to the plum; while its large proportion of carbonaceous matter renders it capable of receiving and retaining the ammonia of the atmosphere until required for the use of the roots. Muck is not a protection against the peach-worm, but trees, the trunks of which are surrounded by it, are less liable to their attacks. Muck, when mixed with ashes readily receives moisture, and if water be in great excess, the muck will for a long time prevent the land from souring or the water from becoming fetid.

"When urine of animals is mixed with swamp muck, it already undergoes decomposition, and the resulting gases are retained. One-tenth part of stable manure, well mixed with muck, will be found sufficient to cause the mass to heat readily and become as clear manure for farm use. If muck be placed under cows, oxen, &c., and covered by the bedding, so that their urine will pass through the bedding and combine with the muck while it contains the animal warmth, then the muck will be decomposed, and the warmth of the body of the animal while sleeping will materially assist in the decomposition. The solid manure, remaining atop of the bedding, should be removed each morning, and mixed with new portions of muck in the preparation before stated for mutual decomposition. If the liquid manures from stables be led by gutters to cisterns, and when cold, pumped upon muck, it will not decompose one-half the quantity as when applied containing the animal warmth. Each horse, ox or cow, will supply the means of converting one cord of muck per week into manure equal to ordinary barn-yard manure; while the ready product of the manure renders such manure much more easily divisible during tillage. Large quantities of muck may be thrown with advantage into the hog-pen and new quantities should be added as often as any odor can be perceived arising from the surface of the pen. I have used large quantities of muck in these manures and have found it advantageous to remove and renew the muck of the stables and hog-pen every ten days, always placing it under manure-sheds to prevent its exposure to useless currents of air, for evaporation, and to assist in maintaining an equable temperature, to assist its decomposition. When larger quantities of manures are required than can be formed from these means, then new quantities of muck may be decomposed by the process given in the 'Working Farmer,' page 4, under the head of 'Lime as a Manure.' By use of the lime and salt mixture as there described, any amount of manure may readily be formed from muck.

"Either fresh or salt muck makes a good fertilizer for night soil, absorbing all the more fluid parts and at the same time rendering the mass, with the slight addition of two bushels of plaster of Paris to the cord, entirely inodorous.

"Dead animals, if cut into small pieces, (say from one to ten pounds each) coating slightly with ashes and then burying them in muck, will convert the whole muck into a most powerful manure. The waste of glue factories, slaughter houses, &c., may be so treated, and every hundred pounds of animal matter will convert one cord of muck into good manure. The spent ley of the soap boilers, if thrown upon muck, soon converts it into available manure, and every ten gallons of this spent ley, as it is called, is fully equal in its beneficial effects upon soil, after proper division with muck, to one bushel of ashes.

"Guano, hen and pigeon dung, bones after having been treated with sulphuric acid, and indeed, all the more powerful classes of manure, should be divided by admixture of muck before being used upon land.

"When muck cannot readily be procured, then surface-earth from old woods, pure mud, head-lands, &c., may be similarly used, and of a character not containing sufficient carbonaceous matter and charcoal dust. Some have objected to taking the surface-earth from woods, under the impression that they should impoverish the soil, but if they will replace half the value in lime and salt mixture in the place of the surface taking, the woods will generally gain by the exchange.

"When muck composts are used on sandy soils they are rendered more tenacious, and when mixed with clay, this soil is rendered more valuable. In my next communication I will treat of my experience in the effects produced by deep

subsoil ploughing. The facts stated above in relation to muck and its compounds are in strict accordance with the results obtained in my practice, and may be depended upon as correct."

Benefit of Under-draining.

Messrs. Editors.—In the December number of the Farmer my attention was called to the subject of draining lands, and believing the subject too little practiced or understood in this country, with your leave I will give you a trifling of my experience in under-draining.

I have now more than forty acres of wheat on which there is not a surface drain, the whole being under-drained. It is some six or eight years since I began the work. My first experiment was on a lot of about twelve acres, very wet and miry in the spring, so much so that we could not get on to till it. It being more particularly designed for spring crops, it became necessary to have it drained. Accordingly we commenced an under-drain through the dampest part first, until the whole was done. The result was most satisfactory, making the whole dry early in the spring, and rendering the clay parts friable and easy to cultivate. During a freshet the water will run a day or two on the surface and then disappear. Streams running from the road and other fields, coming in contact with the drains immediately disappear. I have observed in wet weather the water would be running out at the lower end of the drain when no water was to be seen on the surface. I have been draining more or less for a number of years with the very best results.

It is observed in digging drains that the subsoil is full of veins or water-courses, conveying the water considerable distances. I once observed in digging a drain some thirty or forty feet distant from a small pond of water that had stood a long time, that when we got nearest to it, the subsoil, which before had been dry, was full of water and commenced running off, and in a few hours the pond was all gone. In addition to what is already stated, I have found a never-failing spring of water, which by using about fifty rods of lead pipe, is conveyed to the lane where it is convenient for stock, and teams going to and from work—the benefit of which will pay for draining the whole farm. [Genesee Farmer.

Increasing and Protecting Manure Heaps.

MR. EDITOR.—Being a reader of your paper which I admire for its boldness of speech, and straight forward course in what it professes to be, I belong to that class called farmers, who have not arrived quite to perfection. I will say for the last 20 years I have endeavored to practice some of the new modes of farming, and am pleased with the results—but I am somewhat embarrassed as to the best mode of making manure. I have examined Bonner's Patent and find it not satisfactory. My mode used to be to fill up or cover my barnyard with mud and loam before winter and keep it well stirred up with plough or harrow for the year, then cart it out for corn and grass. My hog-yard was managed in the same way, only renewed at planting time.

I am now a little off the old track, by building a new barn large enough for 20 head of cattle, set on a side hill with a cellar open to the south, yard room sufficient, well covered over under the barn and out, as before mentioned. Questions. Which will be the best manure with the same manure as heretofore mentioned, under the barn or out? Will it be best to cast out and replenish the yard more than once a year? I strive to make a little saving by way of my sink and wash-room—the ground is rather leaky bottom; it is necessary to plank or brick the bottom? Your opinion is respectfully requested which will much oblige, Marlboro', May 28, 1849.

When the bottom of a cowyard is sandy it ought to be covered deep with clay if it is desirable to retain all the wet from the clouds and from the cattle. But who wants so wet a cowyard? The milking is to be done in it, and most people would like a yard more dry than a clay bottom. The milking is to be done in it, and most people would like a yard more dry than a clay bottom. The milking is to be done in it, and most people would like a yard more dry than a clay bottom.

Cowyards ought to be replenished twice every year. All that is fit should be used for spring planting, and in June soil from the road side, or old wall side, should be carted in to cover the whole yard. When such soil is abundant and heavy, it pays well to cover the whole at least six inches deep. This will preserve the liquid manure and prevent its wasting away much even into a sandy bottom. In September or October, according to the use you would put your manure to you should clear out the yard and fill it again. If you want it for seeding down you will use it for the fore part of September—if you want to use it for a top dressing on grass land you will cart it out in October and spread it on the field. [Massachusetts Ploughman.

COMMON CHEESE CAKE. Boil a quart of rich milk. Beat eight eggs, put them into the milk, and let the milk and eggs boil together till they become a curd. Then drain it through a very clean sieve, till all the whey is out. Put the curd into a deep dish, and mix with it half a pound of butter, working them well together. When it is cold, add to it the beaten yolk of four eggs, and four large table-spoonsful of powdered white sugar; also a grated nutmeg. Lastly, stir, by degrees, half a pound of currants that have been previously picked, washed, dried, and dredged with flour. Lay puff paste round the rim of the dish, and bake the cheese cake half an hour—Send it to table cold. [Miss Leslie.

GROWTH OF PLANTS IN CONTAINED AIR. It is now well known that a plant flourishes as well or better when grown in soil in a transparent vessel with the external air excluded, than when exposed to its influence. Mr. Leeds, druggist, corner of Atlantic and Court streets, Brooklyn, has a monthly room in a large glass jar, planted in the usual soil. This jar is hermetically sealed, and yet the plant has flourished, its leaves being of a healthy green, and it grows faster, and blossoms earlier, than any similar plant exposed to the atmosphere. It has been kept more than two years in this state, having been opened only twice to clean out the glass, which grows, also, more rapidly than from the pots exposed. [Mr. Partridge.

Tilling Corn, Potatoes, and Beans.

At this season farmers should be busy to keep the soil light and keep down the weeds. The measure that was spread broadcast and only harrowed in, needs the plough to bury it a little deeper and to mix it up with the soil. On such land a small plough will work much better than a cultivator or small harrow. When green sward land is ploughed but four or five inches deep it may be better to go with a cultivator than with a plough, but when the furrow has been turned to the depth of seven inches there is no difficulty in raising soil enough to bury the weeds and manure, without disturbing the sward.

If it is well to commence by ploughing away from the plants, whether corn, potatoes or beans. The roots are now young, and they will shoot out anew within twenty-four hours after cutting off. At the next hoeing turn a furrow towards the plants and the soil is made more mellow than in any other mode that we have tried. For potatoes particularly this leaves a bed loose enough for tubers to form in and grow large.

We are aware there are many tillers who object to ploughing from the plants. They say they would always be hilling up. There are men, too, who think a plough should never be used in tilling least some of the roots should be cut. Such cultivators are always fearful of stirring the earth in a dry time for fear the soil would be made more dry by exposure. Their views are not sanctioned by observing farmers—they are the result of fair experiment or agreeable to the best modern theories.

In a dry time the soil is full of moisture and the soil absorbs this moisture much faster when it is often stirred than when it is suffered to lie still and form a crust on the surface. Besides, if the soil is not stirred the weeds will occupy the ground, and as they waste moisture to support them they suck away what the plants ought to have. Any one will see that the soil is much drier in a bed where the weeds have been suffered to grow than where the ground has been kept free of them. Yet we have seen men who would not pull up weeds in certain cases, because they wanted them to shade the soil around the plants in a dry time. With similar reasoning some farmers suppose that where the stalks of corn are thickest the soil will be the more moist because it is more shaded.

How thick ought Cornstalks to stand? This question is often asked but has not been definitely settled. It ought to be agitated into some general rule is established. It seems to be the opinion of many that the stalks may be left thick in proportion to the strength or richness of the soil. But this is not so, for in rich soils the stalks are largest, and large stalks need more room than small ones.

The small Canada corn may be permitted to have more stalks in a hill than the more common kinds. One fact is obvious, when the stalks are too thick many of them have no ears, and are only in the way of such as have them. You may as well let hogweeds grow as stalks without ears. Long experience has taught our farmers that from three to five stalks are enough for each hill when the hills are one foot apart. From repeated trials of our own we are satisfied that four are quite as many as will be found profitable in any kind of soil. Each stalk should have at least one ear. Many will have two when the stalks are not too thick. Now as there are 4000 hills in an acre, and as three good ears of corn will fill a pint measure, three ears on each hill will give sixty-two and a half bushels to the acre. This is about twice the average yield of corn. It may well be supposed that a great proportion of the stalks in common fields have no ears on them, or none worth counting.

If the barren stalks could be known early enough to be removed in season to give others a chance, there would be less harm in leaving a large number. But as many are barren nearly for want of air and light the best way is to see that all the stalks have enough of both. [Massachusetts Ploughman.

Docking and Castrating Lambs.

ES. CULTIVATORS.—As the time is at hand to attend to docking and castrating lambs, I will give you my method of performing that operation. When the lambs are from one to two weeks old, and the weather is good, I drive up my ewes and lambs to the barn-yard, in the afternoon, towards sunset; put them in a close yard, take out all the lambs; put the lambs in a small pen, or on the barn floor; then let the ewes out in the barn-yard, which should be well littered with straw. Have a boy to catch the lambs; hand them to another hand, who lets them stand on their feet. I take the tail in my left hand, hold it out straight, have a good saw knife, and cut off the tail as close as suits fancy. I find this method quicker and better than a chisel and block. Then mark the ear and let the lamb go, keeping them in the yard over night.

In the course of a week or two, bring up the ewes and lambs again. Put them in a close pen; select out the lambs; let the ewes lamb go; put the lambs in a pen or on the barn floor. After the lambs are all taken out, let the ewes into the yard. Remember to have it well covered with dry straw. Have a boy to catch the lambs, place a good hand on a low bench, who should take the lamb on his hip; hold him by his fore and hind legs. The operator will soon find in what position the lamb should be held. I take my knife, cut off about half the pouch, pull out the testicle, and set down the lamb. The mother comes up to meet him; he soon lays down, consequently soon stops bleeding. The next morning I let them out. The lamb will go off as smart as if nothing had occurred. There is no danger from docking than altering. To perform both operations at the same time is too severe.

I will give you my reason for choosing the evening instead of the morning, which is the usual time for altering. If you perform the operation in the morning, the ewes are hungry, and ramble about for food, the poor lamb will drag along in pain, and continue bleeding from the exercise. Reverse the time, and the ewes and the lambs lie down and continue quiet all night, and the bleeding soon stops. [Albany Cultivator.

NEW CURE FOR BOYS. Give the horse some molasses and milk, then put about a half pound of tea in one quart of water and draw it as you would for the table, and when partly cool give it to him, and it will soon relieve him. [Prairie Farmer.

From the Portland Transcript.

The Voices of the "Fit."

All day I had been "drinking," and, as midnight's chimers were chiming, From the tavern slinking—off I started, homeward bound.

Staggering through the muddy ditches, (for it rained like twenty witches, And 'twas darker too than pitch is—) I at last a shelter found.

Sung I lay within my "quarters," glad to "escape the mud and water, Which had deluged me o'er with mortar, as I staggered through the rain; But, O, horrid and appalling! I soon found that I was falling!

Load for succor I kept calling, but my cries were all in vain.

Sifted grunts and hideous growlings, o'er my head incessant rolling, All the while that I was falling, fill'd my lowest with feelings dire!

Still I swiftly kept descending, till I had all thought of landing, But at last I "loughed up, standing," in the pit of smoke and fire!

There his Majesty Stagnate grimly sat, with form gigantic, Gazing on the fearful panic which my presence did create.

'Mong his household's youthful members, who were weakened from the slumbers, When I tumbled in the embers, and so loudly cursed my fate.

Sudden from my nest up-springing, while the pit with yells was ringing, His huge arms around me flinging, close to him my form he clasp'd!

As my pluck was rather tender, this completely roused my "dander," And amid the roar of thunder, tightly in his hand I grasp'd!

Lightning from his eyes was gleaming, and, O, such a horrid screaming!— I awoke me!—I'd been dreaming!—after all I had not slept!

Then I wildly gazed around me, at the place where I yet the scene did not confused me—where I was I could not tell.

But I saw a hideous creature—narrowly I scanned each feature, Could this be the awful creature that I saw amid the smoke?

Oh! protect me, shade of Guster! 'Twas a nasty old she-goblin!

With a score of squealers round her, whose sweet slumbers I had broke!

Safely from my "quarters" snaking, without a "good evening" speaking, I left the young "varmints" squeaking, and their dirty mansion quit.

But since then I've left my "biters," for they were no less than flitters!

And I fear the "tarnal critters," and the voices of the pit!

Self Improvement.

"The proper study of mankind, is man."

So thought an old poet, and undoubtedly he was right. But, if we were to judge by the studies pursued by the great mass of mankind, we must come to a different conclusion. The acquisition of wealth seems to be the study of the present age, and gold is sought, it may be as eagerly, and at the same expense of health, happiness and life, by him who digs the soil, or wields the hammer, as by the individual that "leaves all," and seeks treasure on the brilliant banks of the Sacramento, and both may be equally deaf to the exhortation of the wise man—

"How much better it is to get wisdom than gold."

Human nature is the same everywhere, its study is the same, and a knowledge of it is of great importance.

"Know thyself." This should be engraven as with the "point of a diamond" on every one's heart, and kept continually before the mind. Such a study, rightly conducted and persevered in, would lead to the important duty of self improvement. That should be the object of study. Wiser and better, should be the sentiment. To labor with our hands is not our whole duty. The intellect must not be neglected. To improve in the management of business, is well; to improve the mind is better, being a greater result, and which will lead to the other.

How shall we improve? Train the mind to right reasoning. There is a class of persons that are sadly deficient in this important faculty. Rising up early and sitting up late, and laboring hard, they can scarcely keep free from promising waste. The fault is not in their labor, but in their plans—in the arrangement of their business. They do not adopt the best method to perform their labor, and consequently work to disadvantage. It is of no kind of use to be "hurried to death," from early in the spring till late in the fall. Sit down and calculate, taking all things into consideration. See how much you can plow, plant, hoe, and harvest, and then go to work systematically. Not only estimate the amount of your labor, but to do everything the best way, and do one thing at a time. It is folly to commence a piece of work and leave it half finished for something else, to be left incomplete. What ought to be done should be finished, and what ought not to be done should be left alone.

Cultivate order. "Order is Heaven's first law." How much pleasure there is in contemplating a well ordered family, or a well ordered farm. But some men are "terrible slack!" Look at their farms and you see it at once. Every thing is at loose ends. Their implements are scattered around, and exposed to all the variations of the weather. The space around their front door, may be, is a repository for hay carts and harrows, sleds and sleds, apple tree brush and ash barrels, and all the odds and ends that accumulate during the labors of the whole year.

Where an article was last used, there it may be found. Having "a place for every thing and every thing in its place," will remedy all these evils. But an apple tree is no place to winter a scythe, nor the road side a place to summer a sled. All tools and implements when not in use should be kept under cover.

Be observing. Look around you and see the various methods in which your neighbors perform their labors. Do not suppose for a moment that you know more or are calculating to better advantage than others. Learn from the superior knowledge and tact of all with whom you are acquainted. Make your observation and experience available for your future improvement.

Read, study, and think. Every farmer should

take an agricultural paper, and that is not enough. Neither is his duty done when he pays for it. Nor should he be satisfied by simply reading it. It should be studied. His suggestions should be reduced to practice whenever they can be made beneficial. The knowledge it contains should be treasured up, that we may compare others' experience with our own, and other theories with ours, so that if there is a "better way" we may adopt it. Reason must be exercised in all our labors, and

"How can we reason but from what we know," and how can knowledge in relation to our business be acquired easier or cheaper than from agricultural journals. Strange that so many are blind to their own interests in this respect. The farmer that keeps a dog, or uses tobacco, or takes a political paper, has no valid excuse for not taking an agricultural paper.

Thus I have introduced an important subject and glanced at some of its points. To those accustomed to think it may be suggestive, and can be considered as its importance demands.

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[Albany Cultivator.

Buckwheat.

Buckwheat is said to be a native of Persia, and is usually sown on poor land, although, like other cultivated plants, it does best on a good soil with good culture.

In blossom yield considerable food for bees, although the honey thus obtained is inferior to that made from clover. Buckwheat meal or flour is much used in some sections of the United States for making griddle cakes. The seeds of this plant contain fifty per cent. of starch, and one and one half per cent. of earthy matter. It is often sown and the crop ploughed in, to fertilize poor land. From one to two bushels of seed are put on.

Did any person who eats buckwheat cakes, ever have the good fortune to get any containing not a particle of grit? A method not generally known was lately stated to us by a practical farmer, who says that buckwheat raised in this way is entirely free from the difficulty.

The buckwheat is sown at the usual time, but before harrowing, a bushel of rye is sown with it to the acre; they both come up together, and the buckwheat, being much the most rapid in growth, soon obtains the ascendancy, the rye only forming a smooth, green carpet beneath, which completely prevents the dashing of the grit of the soil by rain upon the buckwheat, when it is cut, and otherwise keeps it clean

